

### **3. Reply Ambassador Austin 2 APRIL 1949**

The paramount authority of the Security Council of the United Nations in enforcement action is clearly recognized. At the same time, the treaty is based on the inherent right, recognized in Article 51 of the Charter, of collective self-defense against armed attack pending the time when the Security Council has taken the measures necessary to maintain international peace and security.

Article 5 establishes the principle that an armed attack against one or more of the parties in Europe or North America will be considered as an attack against all. This would bring into play measures of collective self-defense under Article 51 of the Charter, each party to take such action as it deems necessary, including use of aimed force, in any given instance. Any such measures would be immediately reported to the Security Council and must be terminated when the Security Council has taken the measures necessary to restore and maintain international peace and security.

Articles 52 and 53 deal with enforcement action and not action for self-defense. The former require authorization from the Security Council; the latter does not.

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